

Greeley County Commissioner Minutes

July 11, 2023

The Greeley County Board of Commissioners convened in an open and public session at 9:30 a.m. on the 11th day of July 2023 in the Central Valley Auditorium, Greeley, Nebraska. Notice of the meeting was given by publication in the Cedar Valley News.

Answering present at Roll Call were Jordan Foltz, Joe Leslie, and Dennis Wadsworth. Also present were County Attorney Cindy Bassett, Joe McNally, McNally Law Office, and County Clerk Mindy Grossart. Chairman Foltz noted that the open public meetings act information is posted as required by law and available for public distribution if requested. Everyone present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Leslie to waive the reading and approve the county board minutes from the June 27, 2023, meeting, seconded by Wadsworth. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Monthly reports were reviewed by the County Board for the Clerk, Clerk of the District Court, Sheriff, and Treasurer. Motion made by Wadsworth, second by Leslie to approve the monthly reports. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

County payroll and vendor claims were reviewed by the board. Motion made by Wadsworth to approve payroll and claims, second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. GENERAL: Appera service 123.12, Applied Connective Technologies lease/service 4594.44, Cindy Bassett postage 29.45, Black Hills Energy heat fuel 77.20, Bomgaars Supply supplies 2.98, Clearly service 746.52, Comfort Inn lodging 119.95, Country Market janitor supply 196.60, Country Partners fuel 484.18, DAS State Acctg Central Finance data processing 85.84, Paul Deaver supplies 500.84, Dewey Dilsaver mileage 20.96, Eakes Office Solutions office supplies/data processing/agreement misc. 725.41, Election Systems & Software supplies 239.08, First Concord Benefits Group service 1601.59, First National Bank data processing 54.70, Margaret Freeman prior service 13., Great Plains Communications service 250., Greeley County Clerk of Dist. Court court fee 36., Mindy Grossart mileage/supplies 436.20, Grossarts ac units/service 1,039.99, Holt County Treasurer service 1,184.27, Howard County Clerk district 8 expense 2,624.27, Howard/Greeley RPPD service 564.02, Department of Treasury IRS hra plan fee 55.80, Loup Central Landfill Assoc. annual assessment 960., McNally Law Office service 1,423.40, MIS service 40., Mid-Nebraska Disposal garbage service 698.10, Mid-Nebraska Individual Services mental service agreement 2188., MIPS service 1954.06, Charlotte Murphy prior service 21., NACO registration 50., Dept of Revenue-Property Assessment Division training 290., Nebraska Health & Human Services service 90., People's Service service 97.65, Phonograph-Herald print/publish 67.50, Pitzer Digital print/publish 647.82, Quality Sew & Vac parts 86.99, Region 26 Council id badges/agreement 21,014.14, Scotia Electric building repair 159., Stealth Broadband internet 65., Catherine Sweeney prior service 10., Carol Trumler postage reimb. 63., US Postal Service supplies/envelopes 804.70, Margaret Valladao mileage/phone reimb. 846.05, Verizon Wireless service 40.01, Village of Greeley water service 819.69, Vision Service Plan service 348.29, Tory Wadas Notary reimb 30., Yosten Law court appt. council 2,090. ROAD: AKRS Equipment Solutions repair parts 92.92, Appera uniform/towel service 339.26, Applied Connective Technologies grounds equipment/supplies/labor 2,361., BG & S Transmissions of Grand Island parts/labor 3,350.13, Black Hills Energy heat fuel 120.67, Country Partners fuel/chem supplies/misc. 13,919.41, Greeley County Clerk recording fee 10.00, Greeley County Treasurer registration fee/cdl renewal 76., Grummert Professional Services surveyor fee 11,050., Hamilton phone/internet 92.98, HillBill's Diesel, Ag & Auto parts/grease-oil/small tools 564.56, Howard County Medical Center drug/alcohol test 34., Howard/Greeley RPPD service 172.17, Iron Dr. Welding labor repair 2867.91, Island Supply Welding company oxygen/acetylene 19.20, Jeffres Sand & Gravel road

gravel 12,140.19, Joe Diessner Trucking gravel hauling 6,851., Mid-Nebraska Disposal garbage disposal 42.70, Midwest Service & Sales culverts 8,162.35, Murphy Tractor & Equipment parts/labor 3,949.23, Nebraska machinery Company repair parts 310.46, Parts Bin-Ord parts/shop supplies/shop tools/bolts 1,263.38, People's Service parts/tire repair/labor 7,414.75, Platinum Truck Service labor/parts 822.12, Robert Esch mileage reimb. 117.90, Ruttman Repair labor/parts 417.31, S.E. Smith & Sons lumber 56.36, State of Nebraska Motor Fuels Division motor fuel tax 890., Swiatek Collision Center parts/labor 235., Titan Machinery parts/tools 171.20, TooFast Supply shop tools 229.99, Trotters Whoa & Go II fuel 146.22, Ulrich Gravel road gravel 33,149.02, Village of Greeley water service 63.69, Village of Scotia water/sew/garbage 80.75, Village of Spalding service 43.49, James Wilford storage fee 50. REGISTER OF DEEDS PRESERVATION FUND: Mobile Binders supplies/re-cover books 4,375. GENERAL FUND: Salaries, 22,383., EFTPS Matching SS, 2,195.58, Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Matching County Retirement, 1,883.36, Blue Cross Blue Shield, 14,691.16, ROAD FUND: Salaries, 7,165.32, EFTPS Matching SS., 702.34, Ameritas Life Ins. Corp, Matching County Retirement, 619.69.

Mary McGuire, Greeley County Treasurer submitted a tax remaining report for the years 2019- 2022 for the County Board to review.

The County Board discussed Standards of Conduct for attendees during the public hearing. Chairman Foltz stated they intend that these standards of conduct will provide a framework for public hearings that welcomes debate of public policy issues being discussed by the Greeley County Board of Commissioners. He went on to explain they intend to foster an atmosphere of fairness, courtesy, and civil and respectful discussion of differing points of view. Motion made by Wadsworth to adopt the Standards of Conduct for Public Hearings, second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Next, on the agenda was a public hearing for a Special Use Permit. Applicant information: Greeley Wind II, LLC (NextEra Energy Resources) 700 Universe Boulevard Juno Beach, FL 33048. Present use of the property: Agricultural, Desired use of the property: Utility- Scale Wind Energy Conversion System. The time length requested for the permit: Perpetuity. Wadsworth moved to open the public hearing for Greeley Wind II, LLC at 9:46 a.m., seconded by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Matthew Jones, Project Director, Development at NextEra Energy Resources gave a brief presentation about NextEra Energy Resources. Matt stated they have been investing in Nebraska since 2013 by owning and operating four wind energy centers: Cottonwood Wind in Webster County, Little Blue Wind in Franklin and Webster Counties, Sholes Wind in Stanton and Wayne Counties and Steele Flats in Gage & Jefferson Counties. He provided a Greeley Wind project timeline showing NextEra Energy Resources acquired development rights from Bluestem Energy Solutions in July 2022 and began the Special Use Permit application submittal in December 2022 with a targeted construction and commercial operation in 2025. He also provided some specifics regarding Greeley Wind Nebraska, LLC, is a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC located in Greeley County. Capital investment of approximately \$208 million, expected maximum capacity of up to 115 megawatts of clean, renewable energy produced by 41 primary turbines with 3 alternate sites. Matt listed some project benefits over thirty years: providing approximately \$27 million in landowner payments, bringing approximately \$19 million in additional tax revenue for Greeley County, approximately \$12.5 million to Central Valley Public School District, generating approximately 250 temporary construction jobs, creating up to five full time operations jobs and increasing local business activity.

In Favor Testimony: Peggy Petersen, Wolbach; Brian Gydesen, Scotia; Darrel Cook, Scotia; Mike Wood, Greeley. Neutral Testimony was given by: Elizabeth Shotkoski Ferneding, Blue Springs; Doug Noonan, Tarnov; Ross Butcher, Greeley and Tom Nekoliczak, Greeley. Opposition Testimony was given by: Tina Treffer, Loup City; Cheri Kowalski, Loup City; Daniel Reilly, Spalding; Trevor Nekoliczak, Greeley; Douglas McManus, Greeley; Stoney Clark, Greeley; Donald Dugan, Greeley; Marvin Butch Hughes, Scotia; Kristy Barnes, Greeley; Michael Connelly, Spalding; Robert Bernt, Spalding; Raymond Bernt, Primrose; Cory Ingram,

St. Paul; Trent Nekoliczak, Greeley; Michelle Wullenwaber, Greeley and Alyssa Petersen, Hazard. Wadsworth moved to close the public hearing at 11:02 p.m., second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Discussion by the County Board with questions directed to Matthew Jones, Project Director, Development at NextEra Energy Resources, Jared Ford, Site Manager for Cottonwood and Little Blue Wind Farms, NextEra Energy Resources and David Levy, Baird Holm, LLP. After discussion, Cindy Bassett, Greeley County Attorney noted Greeley County received notice of litigation and advised the County Board to delay a decision on the Special Use Permit for Greeley Wind II, LLC. Wadsworth moved to amend the original motion made on March 28th to table the SUP for 120, to 150 days due to a legal issue that came up on July 10th, second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried. Motion made by Wadsworth to table the final decision on the Special Use Permit for Greeley Wind II, LLC until August 8th, 2023, second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Public Comment: Valarie Conger commented on her recent appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission, recusing herself from voting on the Special Use Permit and information she received from Nebraska Accountability & Disclosure.

Motion by Wadsworth to adjourn at 12:13 p.m., second by Leslie. Roll Call Vote: All yes, motion carried.

Dated this 17th day of July 2023.

Jordan Foltz, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mindy A. Grossart
Greeley County Clerk